

REMARKS

In the office action dated March 4, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 8-10, and 12. Applicant amended claims 1, 6, and 11, in which Applicant corrected typographical errors in claims 1 and 11. Applicant also added claims 14-17. The Examiner's comments and rejections are addressed below in the order they were presented in the Office Action.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 8-10, and 12. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,796,472 ("Wirthlin"). However, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to further recite a display section to be checked on an external side with a naked eye, in which "the naked eye sees a color in the display section due to an amount of transmitted light." Similarly, Applicant has amended independent claim 6 to further recite a display section where a user can determine a contaminated state of the filter paper "by visibly detecting a color change in the display section due to a change in an amount of transmitting light." Ample support for these amendments can be found in Paragraphs [0031] to [0032]. These paragraphs describe how light radiated from the light source passes through the filter paper layers to reach the display section and how the driver sees the display section under different contamination loading.

On the other hand, Wirthlin teaches an optical detector for determining the degree of translucency of a filter medium that gathers radiant energy along its length and transmits the gathered energy to its end, where a sensor is positioned in proximity to one of these ends to detect the amount of radiant energy received by the collector (Abstract). The radiant energy is provided by a light source (54) (Fig. 10). Furthermore, well-known circuitry can be connected to a detector (24) to indicate the filter's condition, in which the circuitry drives how the information related to the filter's condition is presented, such as driving a single indicator LED (col. 6, lines 32-36).

As one can see, Wirthlin does not disclose anything that resembles the limitations of claims 1 and 6, especially with respect to the new limitation of the driver seeing a color or color change a color change in the display section due to the amount of transmitted light. The filter loading in Wirthlin is based on a sensor detecting the light emitted from the light

source, and the resulting sensor information is provided through a detector controlled by the circuitry. Moreover, Wirthlin does not state anything on how the driver can detect the filter loading with his own eyes.

As such, Wirthlin does not anticipate claims 1 and 6. Since claims 8-10 and 12 depend on claim 6, Wirthlin also does not anticipate them. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter and New Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 2-5, 7, 11, and 13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would allow it if rewritten in independent form. As such, Applicant has added new independent claim 14 that includes the limitations of claims 1 and 2. Claim 14 is equivalent to claim 2 being re-written in independent form and is allowable in light of the Examiner's comments on the allowable subject matter. Accordingly, its dependents, claims 15-17, are allowable as well.

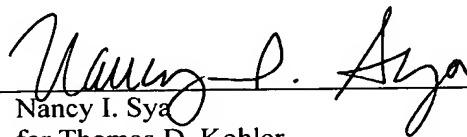
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application as a whole is in form for allowance. Should the Examiner have any continuing objections, Applicant respectfully asks the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 415-442-1000 in order to expedite allowance of the case. Authorization is granted to charge any outstanding fees due at this time for the continued prosecution of this matter to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (matter no. 060949-0008-US).

Respectfully submitted,

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